

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District), together with the Massachusetts C

The entire Massachusetts Congressional delegation -- Senators Kerry and Kennedy and Representative

The delegation sent a letter on January 20, 2006 to Director of the Office of Management and Budget J

"For nearly a decade, the people of Massachusetts have done their part helping their neighbors through

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 authorized \$5.1 billion in annual spending for LIHEAP, however, the prog

Olver said, "LIHEAP helps prevent senior citizens on fixed incomes, working families with children, and

Olver is a member of the Appropriations Committee and the senior Democrat on the Subcommittee of T

The text of the letter is below.

January 20, 2006

Joshua B. Bolten

Director

The Office of Management and Budget

725 17th Street NW

Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Bolten:

We are writing to urge you to include \$5.1 billion in regular funds for the Low Income Home Energy As

Today's energy costs have become unaffordable for many low-income families, persons with disabilities

More than 876,000 LIHEAP-eligible families are in Massachusetts alone, and the increase they'll have

LIHEAP funding has not kept pace with these increases. Five years ago, when prices rose to two-thir

Congress passed the current authorization of \$5.1 billion in recognition of the clear fact that home hea

The Massachusetts LIHEAP program and rate-payer financed utility discounts serve barely 15% of the

The people of the Commonwealth have done their part to help their neighbors. Massachusetts ratepa

Families struggling to make ends meet will be faced with impossible choices between paying their ho

LIHEAP provides a vital safety net for our nation's low-income households by reducing the percentage

With respect and appreciation.

Sincerely,

The Massachusetts delegation

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